

Cancun News

African Civil Societies in Cancun

Both African Governments and Civil Society Networks are extending pressure on the UNFCCC Conference taking place here in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November 2009 to 10 December 2010 to yield a fair, ambitious and legally binding deal under the umbrella of “**Africa-one voice one position**” slogan

The African Civil Society, under the leadership of its continental network, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), to which the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ECSNCC) is a member, designed several strategies to influence the process in all directions. One among the many is to co-host a South-South Summit with Jubilee-South network; encompassing Asia-Pacific Latin America and the Caribbean.

Between 40- 50 high level and experienced environmentalists are participating in this Summit that is going on parallel to the COP 16. The Summit kicked off well ahead of the Cancun UNFCCC conference on the 26th of November and expected to culminate on the 6 of December by delivering a declaration, “**Declaration of the South-South Summit on Climate Justice and Finance**”. Campaigns and other parallel events are also taking place between the beginning and the last day of the summit including but not limited to:

- Press conferences;
- Exhibitions;
- Press statements;
- Demonstrations-both inside the Moon Palace and Cancun mess, where the conference is taking place and out side in down town Cancun where about 4 to 5 hindered people will be participating
- Side events;
- Advocacy and lobby meetings with individual and group government delegates from Africa and other relevant bodies and several others
- Daily strategizing meetings

So far, South-South press conference entitled “**World Bank-Out of Climate Finance**”, PACJA/Approdev side event on climate Justice, exhibitions, several advocacy and lobby meetings, **PACJA press release denouncing Japan’s attempt to kill the Kyoto Protocol**-the only legally binding safeguard of developing countries have taken place.

The Summit is expected to deliver its declaration on **Climate Justice and Finance** with in the next two days. The ECSNCC is actively participating in this process where its representatives have made a speech on the **grave consequences of climate change experienced by the people of the continent and the State of Play of the negotiation under the UNFCCC**. Supportive documents, and exhibitions are also opened at Cancun Mess and distributed at the Moon Palace

In its today coordination and strategy meeting, PACJA has discussed on the more frustrating developments unfolding on the UNFCCC decision making process. There is a fear and growing concern among CSO networks of both the South and Northern hemisphere here in Cancun that the history of Copenhagen might be repeated where the

UNFCCC negotiation process will be hijacked by a group of few governments using the Mexico presidency as an instrument. A third, informal track, called “**Green Room**” is said to be established by the president to work separately and come up with a draft text parallel to the two texts expected from the legitimate bodies of the UNFCCC, the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA.

PACJA decided to organize a rally and denounce this illegitimate process in various ways including a press conferences and press release with its allies from the Jubilee.

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